

MARYLAND IS A GREAT STATE FOR WOMEN:

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY AND LT. GOVERNOR BROWN HAVE MADE IT EVEN BETTER.



Maryland is the best state in the nation for women according to the Center for American Progress.

Maryland has the third-lowest poverty rate for women in the nation.

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Maryland ranks third in the nation in percentage of managerial jobs held by women (42.4%).

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Maryland is tied for the state with the lowest wage gap in the nation between working men and working women -- women in Maryland make 85% of what men make. We won't rest until it's eliminated. Nationally, women make 77% of what men made. [AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN](#)

Maryland is the #1 state in the nation for women-owned businesses -- one-third of Maryland businesses are women-owned. [NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL](#)

Lilly Ledbetter Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2009

In 2009, Governor O'Malley signed the Lilly Ledbetter Civil Rights Restoration Act into law. Ms. Ledbetter was the plaintiff in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* in 2007 -- the discrimination case where the Supreme Court made it harder for employers to use the courts to redress race or gender pay discrimination. The law Governor O'Malley signed in 2009 makes it easier for women to use the courts to hold employers accountable for discriminatory wages.

Progress under the O'Malley-Brown Administration

Court Of Appeals: Governor O'Malley appointed the first ever woman to be Chief Judge of Maryland's highest court, and he named the first African-American female to serve on the court. That court, the Court of Appeals, now has a female majority for the first time in its history.

Justice Appointments: Overall, Governor O'Malley has appointed 68 women to judicial appointments, which was 44% of the total judicial appointments made.

Minimum Wage: Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown led the charge to raise Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10. The increase will give a raise to hundreds of thousands of women; who disproportionately account for 61% of Marylanders making the minimum wage or less.

State Contracts: Since FY2007, Maryland has increased the amount paid to women-owned firms by 35%. Maryland set one of the most ambitious goals in the country for minority and women-owned business participation. When the state achieved its goal in 2012, it set an even higher goal.

Violence against Women: Governor O'Malley set a strategic goal to drive down violence against women. Since 2006, Maryland has seen a 9.2% decrease against female homicide victims.

Domestic Violence: Over eight legislative sessions, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown have spearheaded numerous measures to combat domestic violence. Maryland passed legislation that allowed judges to take firearms of respondents of protective orders, that allowed a victim to terminate a residential lease and become eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, and that increased penalties for committing an act of violence in front of a child.

